of foreign and domestic tourists to the States of Rajasthan and Punjab during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Rajasthan		Punjab	
	Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
2001	7757217	608283	474305	3258
2002	8300190	428437	317904	7558
2003	12545135	628560	1150015	4589

(c) There is no fading tourist situation in Rajasthan. In fact, there has been a growth of 51% and 47% in the visits of Domestic and Foreign tourists respectively in the State of Rajasthan during the year 2003 as compared to the year 2002. The State Government has taken following initiatives for the promotion of tourism in Rajasthan:-

(i) Aggressive publicity and marketing at national and international levels.

(ii) Participation in national and international travel marts.

(iii) Development of basic amenities/infrastructure at Tourist Sites.

(iv) Deployment of Tourist Assistance Force at various tourist places in the State.

In addition, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned 27 projects for the development of tourism in the State of Rajasthan during the first two years of 10th Five Year Plan and sanctioned an amount of Rs. 27.44 crores for the same.

Sale of shares of Kovalam Resort

1437. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of shares of ITDC's Kovalam Resort has been finalised;

(b) if so, the details of the shares sold and the names of the buyers therein;

(c) the details of the buildings and landed properties mentioned in the sale-purchase agreement;

(d) whether the 'Halcyon Castle' was a part of the sale-agreement; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the disinvestment policy of the Government, Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort was sold to M/s M. Far Hotels Ltd., Cochin on 11th July, 2002 for Rs. 43,68,76,000/-. Details of the shares sold are given in Statement I (*see* below).

(c) The details relating to property title etc. of Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort as indicated in the Share Purchase Agreement are given in Statement II (*see* below).

(d) and (e) Halcyon Castle was a part of Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort for the purpose of disinvestment.

Statement I

Sale of shares of Kovalam resort.

Total Bid Amount	Rs. 43,68,76,000/- (A)
Less: paid separately	
Specified Liabilities	
VRS dues	Rs. 10,65,76,000 (B)
Bid amount towards purchase of Shares	Rs. 33,03,00,000 (C) = (A - B)
Amount representing the value of 99.97% of the share capital or 20,55,477 shares	Rs. 33,03,00,000 (C)
Amount payable to Government of India for 18,49,924 shares	Rs. 29,72,69,034
Amount payable to the Indian Hotels Company Limited for 2,05,553	Rs. 3,30,30,966
Value per share	Rs. 160.7

Statement II

Purchase of shares of Kovalam resort

Description of the land:

The hotel is located at Thiruvananthapuram - 695527, Kerala on a plot of land measuring approximately 2578.40 hectares of freehold and bounded on the North by Vellar Panchayat area, on the South by Panchayat Road to Hawa Beach, on the East by Kerala Tourism Development Corporation Samudra Hotel and on the West by the Sea.

Floor Area Ratio (FAR):

The current FAR applicable is 200%.

Area constructed:

The total area constructed is approximately 31,525 square metres.

Foreign tourists in Assam

1438. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists who visited Assam during the last three years;

(b) the reason for low flow of foreign tourists in Assam; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to boost tourism industry in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Foreign tourists arrivals in Assam have shown a steady increase during the last three years, as will be seen below:

Year	No. of Tourists
2001	6171
2002	6409
2003	6610

Process of development of tourism in the country including state of Assam is an ongoing process. During the year 2003-04, an amount of